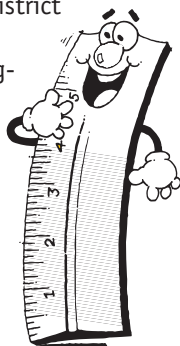


It takes more than a yardstick to track your child's growth. You probably use many different kinds of measures—a bathroom scale, birthday pictures, and increasing clothing sizes. District

34 also uses different measures to chart your child's educational progress.

This brochure describes NWEA, one of the types of tests used to assess your child's performance and progress. The NWEA tests are computerized adaptive tests in reading, math, and language usage.



Students in grades 3–8 take reading, math, and language usage tests in the fall, and students in grades 3–7 take reading, math and language usage tests in the spring. However, no single test can give a full accounting of your child's knowledge and skills. Each test that we use provides one part of the whole picture.

A copy of your child's Student Progress Report is enclosed.

The RIT Score

First, the report gives you a RIT score for your child in each subject area and is a measure of individual achievement. As students take NWEA Tests over a period of time, the RIT scores will also be a measure of academic growth.

Just as a doctor has a chart showing the most common height of people at certain ages, the chart below shows "typical" scores for students in grades 3–8 who are tested in the fall and in the spring. For example, an average 5th grader would get a RIT score of 206 in reading in the fall of the year.

Chart of Typical Scores—National Norms

| GRADE | READING | | MATH | | LANGUAGE | |
|-------|---------|--------|------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring |
| 3rd | 188 | 198 | 188 | 200 | 191 | 199 |
| 4th | 199 | 205 | 199 | 208 | 201 | 207 |
| 5th | 206 | 212 | 207 | 215 | 207 | 213 |
| 6th | 211 | 217 | 213 | 220 | 212 | 216 |
| 7th | 215 | 221 | 219 | 227 | 216 | 220 |
| 8th | 220 | 225 | 226 | 235 | 219 | 223 |

The Percentile Score

The second score that you are given in the Parent Report is the percentile rank. This tells you how your child is doing compared to other students in the same grade. For example, if your 7th grader has a percentile score of 81 in math, your child scores better than 81% of 7th graders, nationally, who have taken NWEA tests.

If you have any questions concerning the information in this booklet or on your child's report, please contact your child's teacher or your school's principal.

Median Scores

As a reference, the District 34 preliminary median score at each of the grade levels tested in Spring, 2006 is shown below:

Median Score—Spring 2006

| GRADE | READING | MATH | LANGUAGE |
|-------|---------|------|----------|
| 3rd | 206 | 210 | 207 |
| 4th | 213 | 220 | 214 |
| 5th | 220 | 230 | 220 |
| 6th | 221 | 234 | 221 |
| 7th | 226 | 237 | 226 |

Growth Information

Over the years you will hopefully see your child's test scores improve to show progress or growth.

The report shows your child's progress in each subject area. Each student's subsequent score from the same time of year (fall to fall or spring to spring) should be higher than the previous one. In general, most students show little growth or even slip slightly between the previous spring and fall testing and very high performing students tend to show somewhat less growth in scores than lower performing students.

You can also compare your child's score to that of the district average as well as to an established standard for the grade. However, the real value of the growth information is in tracking the progress of each individual student.

Lexiles

A Lexile is a unit for measuring text difficulty and reader comprehension. Your child's Lexile range is located in the reading section of his/her report. A Lexile text measure is a value assigned to a book. This value is based on the difficulty level of the vocabulary and sentence length. A Lexile does not take into account whether the content of a book would be appropriate for your child, so a Lexile cannot be the only factor in selecting books. However, a Lexile range can be useful in personalizing reading selections for children. As you look to help your child choose books for independent reading, it is recommended parents choose books within the lower 100 points of a child's Lexile range. For more information about Lexiles, go to www.lexile.com.

Questions and Answers

How does this information help teachers and parents?

At the bottom of the parent report, your child's performance for each of the goal areas is compared to the national average for other students in that grade. You and the teacher get a picture of your child's strengths and areas needing more attention.

How is national data collected?

In 2005, the Northwest Evaluation Association conducted a norming study that involved 2.3 million students from 794 school districts in 32 states.

How is the test level determined for each student?

Students taking the NWEA test will have a test dynamically developed for them as they test. The computerized system adjusts the difficulty level of the questions based on their pattern of correct and incorrect answers.

Glenview Public Schools District #34

Dr. Gerald D. Hill
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Mr. Philip A. Collins
*Assistant Superintendent
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Spring, 2006

Glenview Public Schools

NWEA

Northwest Evaluation Association

A Parent's Guide

Spring 2006